

Pre A #
E. Burns
02/04/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: **Hiroshi HASHIMOTO et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **Herewith**

For: **VEHICLE CONTROL SYSTEM**

Attorney Docket No.: **SIW-023**

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 2327Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as follows.

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A1

1. (Amended) A vehicle control system comprising a plurality of control devices which form a plurality of subsystems connected to respective controlled objects and a cooperative control device which cooperatively operates said plurality of control devices through a communication line, wherein

each of said plurality of control devices comprises an input/output control device for conducting input and output processing for the signals sent and received between said cooperative control device and said controlled objects; and